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## SECTION 15181 - HYDRONIC PIPING

### PART 1 - GENERAL

#### 1.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- A. Drawings and general provisions of the Contract, including General and Supplementary Conditions and Division 1 Specification Sections, apply to this Section.

#### 1.2 SUMMARY

- A. This Section includes piping, special-duty valves, and hydronic specialties for hot-water heating, chilled-water cooling, and condenser water systems; makeup water for these systems; blowdown drain lines; and condensate drain piping.
- B. Related Sections include the following:
  - 1. Division 7 Section "Through-Penetration Firestop Systems" for materials and methods for sealing pipe penetrations through fire and smoke barriers.
  - 2. Division 7 Section "Joint Sealants" for materials and methods for sealing pipe penetrations through exterior walls.
  - 3. Division 15 Section "Basic Mechanical Materials and Methods" for general piping materials and installation requirements.
  - 4. Division 15 Section "Hangers and Supports" for pipe supports, product descriptions, and installation requirements. Hanger and support spacing is specified in this Section.
  - 5. Division 15 Section "Valves" for general-duty gate, globe, ball, butterfly, and check valves.
  - 6. Division 15 Section "Meters and Gages" for thermometers, flow meters, and pressure gages.
  - 7. Division 15 Section "Hydronic Pumps" for pumps, motors, and accessories for hydronic piping.
  - 8. Division 15 Section "HVAC Instrumentation and Controls" for temperature-control valves and sensors.

### 1.3 SUBMITTALS

- A. Product Data: For each type of special-duty valve indicated. Include flow and pressure drop curves based on manufacturer's testing for diverting fittings, calibrated balancing valves, and automatic flow-control valves.
- B. Welding Certificates: Copies of certificates for welding procedures and personnel.

### 1.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Welding: Qualify processes and operators according to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code: Section IX, "Welding and Brazing Qualifications."
- B. ASME Compliance: Comply with ASME B31.9, "Building Services Piping," for materials, products, and installation. Safety valves and pressure vessels shall bear the appropriate ASME label. Fabricate and stamp air separators and expansion tanks to comply with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, Division 1.

### 1.5 COORDINATION

- A. Coordinate layout and installation of hydronic piping and suspension system components with other construction, including light fixtures, HVAC equipment, fire-suppression-system components, and partition assemblies.
- B. Coordinate pipe sleeve installations for foundation wall penetrations.
- C. Coordinate pipe fitting pressure classes with products specified in related Sections.
- D. Coordinate installation of pipe sleeves for penetrations through exterior walls and floor assemblies. Coordinate with requirements for firestopping specified in Division 7 Section "Through-Penetration Firestop Systems" for fire and smoke wall and floor assemblies.

## PART 2 - PRODUCTS

### 2.1 MANUFACTURERS

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- A. Available Manufacturers: Subject to compliance with requirements, manufacturers offering products that may be incorporated into the Work include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Grooved Mechanical-Joint Fittings and Couplings:
    - a. Central Sprinkler Company; Central Grooved Piping Products.
    - b. Grinnell Corporation.
    - c. Victaulic Company of America.
  2. Calibrated Balancing Valves:
    - a. Armstrong Pumps, Inc.
    - b. Flow Design, Inc.
    - c. Gerand Engineering Company.
    - d. Griswold Controls.
    - e. ITT Bell & Gossett; ITT Fluid Technology Corp.
    - f. Taco, Inc.
  3. Pressure-Reducing Valves:
    - a. Amtrol, Inc.
    - b. Armstrong Pumps, Inc.
    - c. Conbraco Industries, Inc.
    - d. ITT Bell & Gossett; ITT Fluid Technology Corp.
    - e. Spence Engineering Company, Inc.
    - f. Watts Industries, Inc.; Watts Regulators.
  4. Safety Valves:
    - a. Amtrol, Inc.
    - b. Armstrong Pumps, Inc.
    - c. Conbraco Industries, Inc.
    - d. ITT McDonnell & Miller Div.; ITT Fluid Technology Corp.
    - e. Kunkle Valve Division.
    - f. Spence Engineering Company, Inc.
  5. Expansion Tanks:
    - a. Amtrol, Inc.
    - b. Armstrong Pumps, Inc.
    - c. ITT Bell & Gossett; ITT Fluid Technology Corp.
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- d. Taco, Inc.
- 6. Air Separators and Air Purgers:
  - a. Amtrol, Inc.
  - b. Armstrong Pumps, Inc.
  - c. ITT Bell & Gossett; ITT Fluid Technology Corp.
  - d. Taco, Inc.

## 2.2 PIPING MATERIALS

- A. General: Refer to Part 3 "Piping Applications" Article for applications of pipe and fitting materials.

## 2.3 STEEL PIPE AND FITTINGS

- A. Steel Pipe, **NPS 2 (DN 50)** and Smaller: ASTM A 53, Type S (seamless) or Type F (furnace-butt welded), Grade A, Schedule 40, black steel, plain ends.
- B. Steel Pipe, **NPS 2-1/2 through NPS 12 (DN 65 through DN 300)**: ASTM A 53, Type E (electric-resistance welded), Grade A, Schedule 40, black steel, plain ends.
  - 1. Steel Pipe Nipples: ASTM A 733, made of ASTM A 53, Schedule 40, black steel; seamless for **NPS 2 (DN 50)** and smaller and electric-resistance welded for **NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65)** and larger.
- C. Grooved Mechanical-Joint Fittings: ASTM A 536, Grade 65-45-12 ductile iron; **ASTM A 47 (ASTM A 47M)**, Grade 32510 malleable iron; ASTM A 53, Type F, E, or S, Grade B fabricated steel; or ASTM A 106, Grade B steel fittings with grooves or shoulders designed to accept grooved end couplings.
- D. Grooved Mechanical-Joint Couplings: Ductile- or malleable-iron housing ethylene propylene diene monomer gasket of central cavity pressure-responsive design; with nuts, bolts, locking pin, locking toggle, or lugs to secure grooved pipe and fittings.
- E. Flexible Connectors: Stainless-steel bellows with woven, flexible, bronze, wire-reinforcing protective jacket; **150-psig (1035-kPa)** minimum working pressure and **250 deg F (121 deg C)** maximum operating temperature. Connectors shall have flanged or threaded-end connections to match

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equipment connected and shall be capable of 3/4-inch (20-mm) misalignment.

- F. Welding Materials: Comply with Section II, Part C, of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code for welding materials appropriate for wall thickness and for chemical analysis of pipe being welded.
- G. Gasket Material: Thickness, material, and type suitable for fluid to be handled; and design temperatures and pressures.

## 2.4 VALVES

- A. Gate, globe, check, ball, and butterfly valves are specified in Division 15 Section "Valves."
- B. Refer to Part 3 "Valve Applications" Article for applications of each valve.
- C. Calibrated Balancing Valves, NPS 2 (DN 50) and Smaller: Bronze body, ball type, 125-psig (860-kPa) working pressure, 250 deg F (121 deg C) maximum operating temperature, and having threaded ends. Valves shall have calibrated orifice or venturi, connections for portable differential pressure meter with integral seals, and be equipped with a memory stop to retain set position.
- D. Calibrated Balancing Valves, NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65) and Larger: Cast-iron or steel body, ball type, 125-psig (860-kPa) working pressure, 250 deg F (121 deg C) maximum operating temperature, and having flanged or grooved connections. Valves shall have calibrated orifice or venturi, connections for portable differential pressure meter with integral seals, and be equipped with a memory stop to retain set position.
- E. Pressure-Reducing Valves: Diaphragm-operated, bronze or brass body with low inlet pressure check valve, inlet strainer removable without system shutdown, and noncorrosive valve seat and stem. Select valve size, capacity, and operating pressure to suit system. Valve shall be factory set at operating pressure and have capability for field adjustment.
- F. Safety Valves: Diaphragm-operated, bronze or brass body with brass and rubber, wetted, internal working parts; shall suit system pressure and heat

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capacity and shall comply with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section IV.

- G. Automatic Flow-Control Valves: Gray-iron body, factory set to maintain constant flow with plus or minus 5 percent over system pressure fluctuations, and equipped with a readout kit including flow meter, probes, hoses, flow charts, and carrying case. Each valve shall have an identification tag attached by chain, and be factory marked with the zone identification, valve number, and flow rate. Valve shall be line size and one of the following designs:
1. Gray-iron or brass body, designed for 175 psig (1206 kPa) at 200 deg F (93 deg C) with stainless-steel piston and spring.
  2. Brass or ferrous-metal body, designed for 300 psig (2068 kPa) at 250 deg F (121 deg C) with corrosion-resistant, tamperproof, self-cleaning, piston-spring assembly easily removable for inspection or replacement.
  3. Combination assemblies, including bronze ball valve and brass alloy control valve, with stainless-steel piston and spring, fitted with pressure and temperature test valves, and designed for 300 psig (2067 kPa) at 250 deg F (121 deg C).

## 2.5 HYDRONIC SPECIALTIES

- A. Automatic Air Vent: Designed to vent automatically with float principle; bronze body and nonferrous internal parts; 150-psig (1035-kPa) working pressure; 240 deg F (116 deg C) operating temperature; with NPS 1/4 (DN 8) discharge connection and NPS 1/2 (DN 15) inlet connection.
- B. Expansion Tanks: Welded carbon steel, rated for 125-psig (860-kPa) working pressure and 375 deg F (191 deg C) maximum operating temperature. Separate air charge from system water to maintain design expansion capacity by a flexible **bladder** securely sealed into tank. Include drain fitting and taps for pressure gage and air-charging fitting. Support vertical tanks with steel legs or base; support horizontal tanks with steel saddles. Factory fabricate and test tank with taps and supports installed and labeled according to the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, Division 1.
- C. Tangential-Type Air Separators: Welded black steel; ASME constructed and labeled for 125-psig (860-kPa) minimum working pressure and 375 deg F

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(191 deg C) maximum operating temperature; perforated stainless-steel air collector tube designed to direct released air into expansion tank; tangential inlet and outlet connections; threaded connections for NPS 2 (DN 50) and smaller; flanged connections for NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65) and larger; threaded blowdown connection. Provide units in sizes for full-system flow capacity.

- D. Y-Pattern Strainers: 125-psig (860-kPa) working pressure; cast-iron body (ASTM A 126, Class B), flanged ends for NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65) and larger, threaded connections for NPS 2 (DN 50) and smaller, bolted cover, perforated stainless-steel basket, and bottom drain connection.

### PART 3 - EXECUTION

#### 3.1 PIPING APPLICATIONS

- A. Hot and Chilled Water, NPS 2 (DN 50) and Smaller: Schedule 40 steel pipe with threaded joints.
- B. Hot and Chilled Water, NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65) and Larger: Schedule 40 steel pipe with welded and flanged joints or grooved mechanical-joint couplings.

#### 3.2 VALVE APPLICATIONS

- A. General-Duty Valve Applications: Unless otherwise indicated, use the following valve types:
1. Shutoff Duty: Gate, ball, and butterfly valves.
  2. Throttling Duty: Globe, ball, and butterfly valves.
- B. Install shutoff duty valves at each branch connection to supply mains, at supply connection to each piece of equipment, unless only one piece of equipment is connected in the branch line. Install throttling duty valves at each branch connection to return mains, at return connections to each piece of equipment, and elsewhere as indicated.
- C. Install calibrated balancing valves in the return water line of each heating or cooling element and elsewhere as required to facilitate system balancing.

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- D. Install check valves at each pump discharge and elsewhere as required to control flow direction.
  - E. Install safety valves on hot-water generators and elsewhere as required by the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Install safety-valve discharge piping, without valves, to floor. Comply with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, Division 1, for installation requirements.
  - F. Install pressure-reducing valves on hot-water generators and elsewhere as required to regulate system pressure.

### 3.3 PIPING INSTALLATIONS

- A. Refer to Division 15 Section "Basic Mechanical Materials and Methods" for basic piping installation requirements.
- B. Install groups of pipes parallel to each other, spaced to permit applying insulation and servicing of valves.
- C. Install drains, consisting of a tee fitting, NPS 3/4 (DN 20) ball valve, and short NPS 3/4 (DN 20) threaded nipple with cap, at low points in piping system mains and elsewhere as required for system drainage.
- D. Install piping at a uniform grade of 0.2 percent upward in direction of flow.
- E. Reduce pipe sizes using eccentric reducer fitting installed with level side up.
- F. Unless otherwise indicated, install branch connections to mains using tee fittings in main pipe, with the takeoff coming out the bottom of the main pipe. For up-feed risers, install the takeoff coming out the top of the main pipe.
- G. Install strainers on supply side of each control valve, pressure-reducing valve, solenoid valve, in-line pump, and elsewhere as indicated. Install NPS 3/4 (DN 20) nipple and ball valve in blowdown connection of strainers NPS 2 (DN 50) and larger. Match size of strainer blowoff connection for strainers smaller than NPS 2 (DN 50).
- H. Anchor piping for proper direction of expansion and contraction.



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### 3.4 HANGERS AND SUPPORTS

- A. Hanger, support, and anchor devices are specified in Division 15 Section "Hangers and Supports." Comply with requirements below for maximum spacing of supports.
- B. Install the following pipe attachments:
  - 1. Adjustable steel clevis hangers for individual horizontal piping less than 20 feet (6 m) long.
  - 2. Adjustable roller hangers and spring hangers for individual horizontal piping 20 feet (6 m) or longer.
  - 3. Pipe Roller: MSS SP-58, Type 44 for multiple horizontal piping 20 feet (6 m) or longer, supported on a trapeze.
  - 4. Spring hangers to support vertical runs.
- C. Install hangers for steel piping with the following maximum spacing and minimum rod sizes:
  - 1. NPS 3/4 (DN 20): Maximum span, 7 feet (2.1 m); minimum rod size, 1/4 inch (6.4 mm).
  - 2. NPS 1 (DN 25): Maximum span, 7 feet (2.1 m); minimum rod size, 1/4 inch (6.4 mm).
  - 3. NPS 1-1/2 (DN 40): Maximum span, 9 feet (2.7 m); minimum rod size, 3/8 inch (10 mm).
  - 4. NPS 2 (DN 50): Maximum span, 10 feet (3 m); minimum rod size, 3/8 inch (10 mm).
  - 5. NPS 2-1/2 (DN 65): Maximum span, 11 feet (3.4 m); minimum rod size, 3/8 inch (10 mm).
  - 6. NPS 3 (DN 80): Maximum span, 12 feet (3.7 m); minimum rod size, 3/8 inch (10 mm).
- D. Support vertical runs at roof, at each floor, and at 10-foot (3-m) intervals between floors.

### 3.5 PIPE JOINT CONSTRUCTION

- A. Refer to Division 15 Section "Basic Mechanical Materials and Methods" for joint construction requirements for soldered and brazed joints in copper tubing;

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threaded, welded, and flanged joints in steel piping; and solvent-welded joints for PVC and CPVC piping.

### 3.6 HYDRONIC SPECIALTIES INSTALLATION

- A. Install manual air vents at high points in piping, at heat-transfer coils, and elsewhere as required for system air venting.
- B. Install automatic air vents in mechanical equipment rooms only at high points of system piping, at heat-transfer coils, and elsewhere as required for system air venting.
- C. Install combination air separator and strainer in pump suction lines. Install piping to compression tank with a 2 percent upward slope toward tank. Install blowdown piping with gate valve; extend to nearest drain.
- D. Install expansion tanks on floor. Vent and purge air from hydronic system, and ensure tank is properly charged with air to suit system design requirements.

### 3.7 TERMINAL EQUIPMENT CONNECTIONS

- A. Size for supply and return piping connections shall be same as for equipment connections.
- B. Install control valves in accessible locations close to connected equipment.
- C. Install bypass piping with globe valve around control valve. If multiple, parallel control valves are installed, only one bypass is required.
- D. Install ports for pressure and temperature gages at coil inlet connections.

### 3.8 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

- A. Prepare hydronic piping according to ASME B31.9 and as follows:
  - 1. Leave joints, including welds, uninsulated and exposed for examination during test.

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2. Provide temporary restraints for expansion joints that cannot sustain reactions due to test pressure. If temporary restraints are impractical, isolate expansion joints from testing.
  3. Flush system with clean water. Clean strainers.
  4. Isolate equipment from piping. If a valve is used to isolate equipment, its closure shall be capable of sealing against test pressure without damage to valve. Install blinds in flanged joints to isolate equipment.
  5. Install safety valve, set at a pressure no more than one-third higher than test pressure, to protect against damage by expanding liquid or other source of overpressure during test.
- B. Perform the following tests on hydronic piping:
1. Use ambient temperature water as a testing medium unless there is risk of damage due to freezing. Another liquid that is safe for workers and compatible with piping may be used.
  2. While filling system, use vents installed at high points of system to release trapped air. Use drains installed at low points for complete draining of liquid.
  3. Check expansion tanks to determine that they are not air bound and that system is full of water.
  4. Subject piping system to hydrostatic test pressure that is not less than 1.5 times the design pressure. Test pressure shall not exceed maximum pressure for any vessel, pump, valve, or other component in system under test. Verify that stress due to pressure at bottom of vertical runs does not exceed either 90 percent of specified minimum yield strength or 1.7 times "SE" value in Appendix A of ASME B31.9, "Building Services Piping."
  5. After hydrostatic test pressure has been applied for at least 10 minutes, examine piping, joints, and connections for leakage. Eliminate leaks by tightening, repairing, or replacing components, and repeat hydrostatic test until there are no leaks.
  6. Prepare written report of testing.

### 3.9 ADJUSTING

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- A. Mark calibrated nameplates of pump discharge valves after hydronic system balancing has been completed, to permanently indicate final balanced position.
  - B. Perform these adjustments before operating the system:
    - 1. Open valves to fully open position. Close coil bypass valves.
    - 2. Check pump for proper direction of rotation.
    - 3. Set automatic fill valves for required system pressure.
    - 4. Check air vents at high points of system and determine if all are installed and operating freely (automatic type), or bleed air completely (manual type).
    - 5. Set temperature controls so all coils are calling for full flow.
    - 6. Check operation of automatic bypass valves.
    - 7. Check and set operating temperatures of boilers, chillers, and cooling towers to design requirements.
    - 8. Lubricate motors and bearings.

### 3.10 CLEANING

- A. Flush hydronic piping systems with clean water. Remove and clean or replace strainer screens. After cleaning and flushing hydronic piping systems, but before balancing, remove disposable fine-mesh strainers in pump suction diffusers.

END OF SECTION 15181